

NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED FIFTH MEETING

Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center
8885 State Route 37 South
Cypress, IL 62923

May 4, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 25, 2010, and the 204th Meeting, January 26, 2010

Item 4: 2010 Meeting Schedule

September 21, 2010 10:00 a.m. Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Don McFall
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Clay Co. – Flag Pond Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposes to register 180 acres as Flag Pond Land and Water Reserve. Flag Pond is included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #37) for its 35-acre grade A pond and is located in the Bottomlands Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division. The proposed land and water reserve also includes 135 acres of grade C wet floodplain forest and 6 acres of

grade C dry-mesic upland forest. It supports 224 plant and 183 animal species including an uncommon reptile, which is protected by Illinois Administrative Rule Part 88070, and 24 other species listed as in greatest need of conservation by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Registration will be through perpetuity and will protect 95% of the INAI site. Allowable uses will include hiking, nature observation and study, scientific research, photography, hunting of squirrel, white-tailed deer (archery and firearm) and turkey (spring shotgun, fall shotgun and fall archery) and maintenance of an access lane. Registration will be subject to existing oil leases which have been active since 1978.

REPORT

Scott Simpson

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 9:* Jackson Co. – Stonewood Farm Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Stonewood Farm Land and Water Reserve, owned by Roberta Perry, is a natural area comprised of forest and mowed field, 135 acres in total. The site is located in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Natural Division. The site is significant because the area contains plentiful habitat for a state-threatened reptile and is within a mile of a known birthing rookery. The proposed land and water reserve is located 9 miles west of Murphysboro and north of State Highway 3 in Jackson County and is part of the newly designated SW Kinkaid Route 3 INAI site (#1733). The forest contains areas that are mature forest and other areas that are successional oak-hickory forest. The area is surrounded on all sides by Shawnee National Forest except for approximately 1,000 feet along the southern border which adjoins private land. The protection of this site supports action steps identified in the Forests Campaign of the IWAP. The landowner wishes to register the site for a period of ten years.

REPORT

Judy Faulkner Dempsey

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 10:* Lawrence Co. – Chauncey Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The IDNR seeks to register Chauncey Marsh as an Illinois land and water reserve. The proposed land and water reserve is 345.08 acres in size and is located in the Bottomlands Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division. The site is located adjacent to the 160-acre Chauncey Marsh Nature Preserve and includes much of the Chauncey Marsh INAI (#38). The proposed land and water reserve includes grade C floodplain forest, shrub swamp, pond and large, low gradient stream communities, warm-season grass and tree plantings, an artificial wetland and old fields that provide buffer to the Nature Preserve. The proposed land and water reserve supports 184 animal and 351 plant species including the state-endangered royal catchfly (*Silene regia*), a state-threatened reptile and breeding populations of the state-threatened cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulean*). It also supports an uncommon reptile which is protected by Illinois Administrative Rule Part 880.70 and 35 other species listed as

in greatest need of conservation by the IWAP. Registration would be through perpetuity. Allowable uses would include hiking, nature observation and study, scientific research, photography, fungi foraging, nut collecting, fishing, hunting of squirrel, rabbit, dove, quail, woodcock, waterfowl, white-tailed deer (archery and firearm), turkey (spring shotgun, fall shotgun and fall archery) and furbearers. Other allowable uses would be trapping, manipulation of water levels to maintain the hydrology of the marsh and related communities, and maintenance of an access road, two small parking areas, and trail/fire break system.

REPORT

Mark Alessi

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 11:* Mason Co. – Rollo Prairie Addition to Sparks Pond Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The IDNR wishes to permanently register the 155.87-acre Rollo Prairie as an addition to Sparks Pond Land and Water Reserve (230.7 acres). Rollo Prairie is located within the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Division, approximately one half mile to the northeast of Sparks Pond Land and Water Reserve. All of Sparks Pond and approximately 20 % of Rollo Prairie are within the Sparks Pond Natural Area (INAI #1341). Rollo Prairie supports breeding populations of a state-threatened Illinois amphibian and reptile, both of which are species in greatest need of conservation as defined in the IWAP, and suitable habitat for the state-threatened broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*), which occurs at Sparks Pond Land and Water Reserve. The following natural communities occur at Rollo Prairie: pond (0.5 acres), artificial impoundment (0.1 acres), grade D dry sand savanna (3 acres), and old field (152.27 acres). Registration of this site will help implement the IWAP through the following priority action campaigns: Farmland and Prairie, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship. Rollo Prairie is within the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area. Registration of Rollo Prairie will increase the number of protected sand ponds at Sparks Pond Land and Water Reserve from two to four and increase the size of the site to 386.57 acres, while allowing public hunting and other recreational programs that are compatible with protecting the site's sensitive natural resources.

REPORT

Mitchell Lovgren

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 12:* Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 9.187-acre addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. The addition consists of 32 lots totaling 4.151 acres and an additional 5.0364 acres of portions of platted but unbuilt streets and alleys that can now be vacated. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve.

The proposed addition lies adjacent to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve within an area referred to by TNC as Gensburg-Markham Prairie South. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition. The addition also supports a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for the site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*,” and elements of the IWAP regarding action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition (9.187) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 192.94 to 202.127 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157th Street and 159th Street.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Edwards Co. – Buffer Addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, Dedication

Roger and Vivian Beadles seek preliminary approval for dedication of 15 acres as a second buffer addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, increasing the size of the Nature Preserve from 10 to 25 acres. The site is located within the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural and is recognized by the INAI (#1547) as a Category I site for grade B dry-mesic barrens and has populations of the state-endangered spring ladies’ tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*) and a state-threatened orchid. The five-acre Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication by the INPC at its 166th meeting in February, 2000 (Resolution #1523). A 4.5-acre buffer addition was granted final approval for dedication at the 174th meeting of the INPC in March, 2002 (Resolution #1635). The proposed second buffer addition adjoins the west boundary of the Nature Preserve and the north boundary of the first buffer addition. The proposed buffer addition is former crop fields that are being restored to prairie and open woodland communities.

REPORT
Bob Edgin
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Hancock Co. – Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR wishes to dedicate the entire 37-acre Geissler Savanna Land and Water Reserve as Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve in honor of historic resident botanist and physician, Dr. Samuel Barnum Mead, for whom Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) and Mead's sedge are named. The nine-acre high-quality savanna remnant is proposed for nature preserve dedication and the remaining

28 acres of restored prairie and successional field are proposed for dedication as nature preserve buffer. The site is located within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. The site is recognized by the INAI as Category I containing nine acres of grade B/C dry and dry-mesic savanna and as a Category II for supporting four state-listed plant species, savanna blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*), Mead's milkweed, Virginia bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*), and a rare plant. The site also provides habitat for at least six species in greatest need of conservation as identified by the IWAP. Prior to conveying approval for registration as Geissler Savanna Land and Water Reserve, the INPC granted preliminary approval for dedication of the site, previously named Hancock Savanna, as an Illinois nature preserve at the 156th meeting in August, 1997 (Resolution #1367).

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Kane Co. – Forested Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Board of Trustees of the Fox River Country Day School seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the 23-acre Forested Fen as an Illinois nature preserve. The site has been enrolled in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program since 1989. The proposed nature preserve encompasses much of the Chicago Junior School Area INAI (#0968) site and includes elements of grade B forested fen and grade B calcareous seep wetlands and elements of grade C or D dry-mesic and mesic forest. Only 14.5 acres of forested fen and 16.1 acres of calcareous seep wetlands survive in Illinois, and both are considered G-3 (globally imperiled) by TNC. The forested fen is characterized by the presence of white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and the calcareous seep supports the state-threatened common bog arrow grass (*Triglochin maritima*). The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. This site has benefited from the long-standing commitment of the Fox River Country Day School to its protection and stewardship. The school actively promotes the proposed Forested Fen Nature Preserve and reserves the right for the school to continue to use the site for those purposes. Dedication of the proposed nature preserve will protect the last unprotected forested fen community in Illinois. Dedication of this site is also consistent with recommendations of the “Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region” and elements of the IWAP regarding action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetlands.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

TNC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 10-acre tract as an addition to the 68-acre Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is located

within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is owned by TNC and was formally dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory in 2008. The Nature Preserve is part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#0638). Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), clustered sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus schneideri*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), and a rare plant. The proposed addition is also part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site, and it supports at least two state-listed plants: clustered sedge and old plainsman. It lies within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and provides habitat for several animal species in greatest need of conservation. This addition would provide additional habitat for many species of conservation concern, buffer high-quality natural communities, and allow the Nature Preserve to be managed in a way to maintain its unique natural character.

REPORT

Bryan Eubanks
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* McHenry Co. – Westwood Park Addition and Buffer to the Proposed Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The City of Woodstock seeks dedication of approximately 63.6 acres of land to be known as the Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve. Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the 204th meeting of the INPC and is scheduled for request for final approval at the 205th meeting. Upon its final approval, Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve, owned by the Land Conservancy of McHenry County, will be 40.3 acres in size. The nature preserve and the proposed addition and buffer are located along the western boundary of the City of Woodstock in the Morainal Section of the Northeast Morainal Natural Division. Both sites are part of a larger natural wetland complex covering approximately 260 acres and consisting of a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas. The area has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. The proposed Westwood Park addition is recognized on the INAI (#1568) as part of a wetland complex containing a high-quality grade B, wet-mesic prairie. The proposed Westwood Park buffer consists of several relict natural communities that offer good restoration opportunities and are suitable for passive public use. The proposed addition lies within the Crowsfoot Marsh/Coon Creek/Kishwaukee River Conservation Opportunity Area. It also supports action steps for several campaigns identified in the IWAP and provides habitat for several birds in greatest need of conservation. The dedication of the proposed Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will help protect a relict natural community included on the INAI and at least one state-listed animal. Restoration and management of this natural area will

benefit area sensitive grassland dependent birds. If approved, the lands protected at the proposed Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will increase from 40.3 acres to 103.9 acres.

REPORT

John Nelson

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Cook Co. – McMahon Woods and Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) seeks final approval for dedication of the 657-acre McMahon Woods and Fen as an Illinois nature preserve (477.28 acres as nature preserve and 180.52 acres as nature preserve buffer). The proposed nature preserve lies within the Palos and Sag Valley holdings of the FPDCC (totaling over 14,000 acres) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The site is located in the Crooked Creek watershed adjacent to the 372-acre Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve. The glacial history of the site has left a mosaic of landscapes that today support a number of grade C natural plant communities (dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, dry-mesic woodland, wet-mesic woodland, wet mesic prairie, basin marsh, graminoid fen, sedge meadow, and natural spring/seep) and several cultural communities. To date, 197 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve. Among the plant species are the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), a state-threatened plant, and savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*). In addition, the proposed McMahon Woods and Fen Nature Preserve supports a population of the federally endangered and state-endangered Hines emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). This dragonfly is known from only four states: Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. In Illinois, this species has been recorded from nine sites located in a narrow corridor that extends along the Lower Des Plaines River corridor in Cook and Will counties. Extensive butterfly surveys conducted from 1996 through 2008 documented the presence of 52 species from the site, including seven species that are considered habitat-restricted. In 1992, extensive insect surveys documented the presence of six insect species (including the Hines emerald dragonfly) that are considered “wildlife species in greatest need of conservation” in the IWAP. Dedication of McMahon Woods and Fen as an Illinois nature preserve supports several action steps identified in the plan for the wetland and prairie campaign and the forest campaign. In addition, dedication of this site reaffirms the commitment of the FPDCC to “...preserve, protect, restock, and restore...” holdings that are of ecological significance. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 201st Meeting in January, 2009 (Resolution 2023).

REPORT

Steven Byers

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* McHenry Co. – Freundschaft Weise Buffer Addition to Boloria Meadows Nature Preserve, Dedication

Robert and Ruth Wohnrade request final approval for dedication of 1.5 acres to be known as the Freundschaft Weise buffer addition to Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve (INAI #1413) is a 36.4-acre natural area dedicated by the Boone Creek Watershed Alliance in 2005. In 2006, Legacy Homes dedicated an additional 6.4 acres as a buffer addition to Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. If approved, this dedication would increase the amount of currently protected land at this site from 42.8 acres to 44.3 acres. The proposed buffer addition is located along the southern boundary of the Nature Preserve. The buffer area includes a relict sedge meadow natural community that is contiguous with the high-quality sedge meadow found within Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. The buffer area also includes a portion of an artificial pond and a natural drainageway that intermittently conveys excess surface water away from Boloria Meadows to the south. Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Dedication of the proposed Freundschaft Weise buffer addition will provide long-term legal protection for a high-quality sedge meadow and land suitable as buffer which is contiguous to the existing Nature Preserve. Protection, restoration, and expansion of the Nature Preserve supports action steps identified in the IWAP for the Prairie Campaign, Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, and Invasive Species Campaign. Dedication will also allow for better land management and restoration activities within the natural wetland basin found at Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 204th Meeting in January, 2010 (Resolution 2059).

REPORT

John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* McHenry Co. – Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County seeks final approval for dedication of approximately 40.3 acres of land to be known as Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located along the western boundary of the City of Woodstock. It is part of a larger natural wetland complex covering approximately 260 acres and consisting of a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas. Yonder Prairie has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-endangered reptile. The proposed nature preserve contains a high-quality wet-mesic prairie natural community that is recognized on the INAI (#1568) and is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeast Morainal Natural Division. The dedication of Yonder Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve will help protect a relict natural community and at least one state-listed animal species. Protection and restoration of the proposed Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve supports the IWAP under the Prairie Campaign, Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, and Invasive Species Campaign. It is anticipated that

this dedication will also serve as a starting point for protecting other adjacent qualifying lands. If approved, Yonder Prairie will be the Land Conservancy of McHenry County's first dedicated nature preserve. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 204th Meeting in January, 2010 (Resolution 2060).

REPORT
John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 21:* Carroll Co. – Request to Address Erosion Along With Improvement to Mississippi Palisades State Park Road, Sentinel Nature Preserve

The IDNR proposes to reconstruct an existing road within Mississippi Palisades State Park. The 48.4-acre Nature Preserve is recognized on the INAI (#0410) due to its rare floristic composition, high quality hill prairies, unique geological features, and status as a National Natural Landmark. A portion of the proposed road work is adjacent to Sentinel Nature Preserve and will include resurfacing within the current footprint. Three pipe culverts in place adjacent to and within the Nature Preserve are not currently functioning properly due to sediment accumulation, old age, and structural failure. Of the proposed replacement culverts, two will be shorter in length by 10 feet than the present culverts. One 96 inch-wide culvert replacement requires the use of two 72 inch side-by-side culverts due to the lack of availability of concrete culverts of that size. The waterway opening will be equivalent and the use of concrete will increase the age potential for the infrastructure. The culverts require expanded rip-rap aprons at the outflows to prevent erosion and decrease scouring within the Nature Preserve. Additionally, one catch basin will be located approximately three feet within the Nature Preserve boundary. All proposed work is improvement to existing structures.

REPORT
Bob Smith and George Bellovics
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
John Nelson and Jenny Skufca
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Proposal

Item 22:* Monroe Co. – Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve: Request to Change Surface Features to Alleviate Underground Water Drainage Which is Causing Damage

The Village of Valmeyer seeks approval to complete work on the land surface of Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve to amend water drainage issues occurring at the subsurface level related to the fractured limestone substrate and past mine blasting. The Village proposes to fill one hole for safety and water diversion, and build five small berms as water containment and to then pipe the water downslope to a stream in the valley away from underground storage areas. The 594.48-acre Land and Water Reserve (INAI #0201) was registered in 2005 to protect grade A, B, and C loess hill prairie; grade A and B limestone glade; grade A limestone cliff community; grade C dry and dry-mesic upland forest; several state-threatened and endangered species; and

a large forested block for forest-interior birds. The Village leases the underground limestone mine to a developer who uses it for a freezer facility and sensitive records storage based on agreements established before the registration of the property. The registration proposal stated that the Village of Valmeyer was "...reserving the right to be able to access and maintain the air shafts on site, in a manner not inconsistent with the reserve..." The landowner reserved this right because "...continued ventilation may be an important component to the storage facility below..." The Registration Agreement allows for an exception in the legal description "...with the right of access consistent with this conservation easement across said tract for the purpose of maintenance and management of all ventilation air shafts." The registration agreement did not address issues related to control of water leakage into the underground areas. The Village of Valmeyer believes that the proposed changes to the surface features should alleviate the current leakage.

REPORT

Denny Valentine
Village of Valmeyer
Debbie Newman and Jenny Skufca
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Proposal

Item 23: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Proposals

Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) capital appropriation in FY2010) to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC's protection programs. From the FY2008 , FY2009 and FY2010 NAAF capital appropriation, \$475,000, \$225,000 and \$225,000 was available respectively to defend natural areas statewide. NAAF defense projects that were begun in years prior to FY2010 and continued or completed during FY2010 include: the collection of hydrological data required for permit applications to allow reconstruction and restoration of hydrology and prevent drainage in the Cache River system which includes Heron Pond-Little Black Slough Nature Preserve, Section 8 Woods Nature Preserve and Cache River Land and Water Reserve; funding the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off-site development, threats or damages, prepare Class 3 Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff; the development of engineering plans to stabilize the asbestos containing material contaminated sand pile north of North Dunes Nature Preserve; addressing wildfire management at Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve and other INPC program sites; and providing seed money for re-sampling of Category 1 INAI sites in INPC programs by the INAI update team to assess conditions in the sites (prelude to monitoring). In FY 2010, there was a new contract for the continuation of the aforementioned groundwater consulting services and Class III delineations from the ISGS, and we are working on details of a way to implement better easement monitoring procedures for existing INPC program sites. Approximately \$155,000 of the three years of allocations remains unassigned to specific projects. This money remains available to address threats that may arise. Based on the FY2011 budget proposal, \$225,000 may be available for allocation to defense. Specific projects will

be selected as needed but will likely include a continuation of the aforementioned groundwater data and consultation services at some level and a continuation of easement monitoring procedures developed during this year. Specific projects funded during FY2011 will be reported in May, 2011.

REPORT

Deborah Stone,
Randy Heidorn and Jenny Skufca
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of FY2011 Defense Project
Plan

Item 24: Lake Co. – Correction of Error in Legal Description in the Dedication Agreement for the Jean Farwell Woods Addition of Buffer to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve

The five-acre Jean Farwell Woods addition of buffer to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve was given final approval for dedication at the 191st meeting of the INPC (Resolution 1907) on August 8, 2006, and the dedication document was recorded in Lake County on September 20, 2006. The landowner, Frank Farwell, recently identified an error in the legal description. The corrected legal description needs to be approved by the Commission in resolution, attached to the original dedication document, and re-recorded.

REPORT

Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Corrected Legal
Description

Item 25:* Lake Co. – Lake County Vision for Land Preservation, Letter of Support

In early 2009, the Liberty Prairie Conservancy initiated a visioning process for land preservation in Lake County that included 17 partner organizations including the INPC. To date, public and private land preservation organizations have protected about 39,344 acres (or 13.4 percent of Lake County). While there has been great progress, there has never been an effort to articulate a collective countywide vision for land preservation. The results of this visioning process: “To realize a Lake County landscape where, by 2030, at least 20% of the County is preserved forever as natural areas, parks, trails, farmland, and scenic views” establishes a target for land preservation. To date, 16 of the 17 partner organizations (including the IDNR) have adopted the Lake County Vision for Land Preservation. Staff of the INPC recommends that the INPC endorse this vision for land preservation.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Letter of Support

Item 26: Land and Water Reserve White Paper

The land and water reserve registration program began 15 years ago and has protected over 156 land and water reserves in 65 counties, totaling over 44,000 acres. With the

maturity of this program, INPC staff saw a need to update the process and procedures for registering lands as land and water reserves. To address this, the INPC appointed a committee composed of INPC and IDNR staff to research and recommend better ways of doing business. Land and Water Reserves Procedures Committee members are IDNR staff - Don McFall, Don Moles, and Ren Moore; and INPC staff - Kim Roman and Mary Kay Solecki. The Committee consulted with partners and researched reference documents including model conservation easements, easement checklists and monitoring reports from several organizations, and Land Trust Alliance's Land Trust Standards and Practices. The main goals were to explore and recommend revisions and updates to 1) procedures for acquiring land and water reserves and 2) the registration agreement for registering land and water reserves in order to strengthen the protection of lands conserved within the land and water reserves system.

REPORT

Mary Kay Solecki
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of the White Paper

Item 27: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 28: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Land Acquisition Proposals

The NAAF is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of land acquisition projects by the INPC. In FY2010, the IDNR identified 20 high priority tracts of land currently for sale within 16 natural areas. No new land acquisition was completed during FY2010. Depending on the final IDNR budget, tracts from this same approved list will be considered for state acquisition in FY2011 if and when funds become available. All the proposed acquisition parcels are included on the INAI, and/or provide habitat for endangered or threatened species of animals or plants. The proposed acquisitions total 2,800 acres and would cost approximately \$12,600,000 to acquire. The proposed capital budget includes a total of \$1,000,000 for acquisition, preservation and stewardship from NAAF. Assuming the IDNR maintains the same levels for stewardship and defense as it has had in previous years, the amount potentially available for natural area acquisition with NAAF in the proposed state budget would be \$375,000. A final decision on the amount to be used for land acquisition in FY2011 has not yet been made.

REPORT

Don McFall
Department of Natural Resources

Item 29: Other Business

Item 30: Adjournment